

Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 PC-01 IO-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 AGR-05

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R 280635Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6877

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG

COMIDEASTFOR

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 0156

DEPT PASS DIA

CINCUSNAVEUR AND CINCLANT FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT MA

SUBJECT: GENERAL RAMANANTSOA'S POLITICAL CHOICES

REF: TANANARIVE 0145

1. GENERAL RAMANANTSOA'S DECISION TO DISSOLVE HIS GOVERNMENT HAS SERVED TO TEMPORARILY DEFUSE PUBLIC TENSIONS HERE. HOWEVER, MAJOR BEHIND-SCENES STRUGGLE REPORTEDLY UNDER WAY TO INFLUENCE RAMANANTSOA TO OPT FOR CLEAR POLICY MOVE TO EITHER LEFT OR RIGHT. NEW CABINET'S COMPOSITION SHOULD GIVE CLEAR INDICATION OF GOMR'S FUTURE DIRECTION.

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2. MOVEMENT TO LEFT IN TERMS OF INCREASED STATE INTERVENTION IN ECONOMY MAY PROVE TO BE IRRESISTIBLY ATTRACTIVE CHOICE.

MANY TECHNOCRATS IN GOMR BUREAUCRACY LEAN LEFT AND THERE IS LITTLE IN WAY OF MALAGASY PRIVATE BUSINESSMEN TO COUNTER THEM. PRIVATE SECTOR REMAINS DOMINATED BY "FOREIGNERS" BE THEY SECOND-GENERATION RESIDENT FRENCH, INDIANS OR CHINESE. FACT THAT PAST GOMR INTERVENTION IN ECONOMY HAS CREATED MORE PROBLEMS THAN IT HAS SOLVED, SUCH AS RICE COLLECTION AND DISTRIBUTION BY GOMR, MAY NOT BE ENOUGH TO DETER FURTHER SIMILAR EFFORTS, SINCE FAILURES LIKELY TO BE DISMISSED BY LEFT AS CAUSED BY INSUFFICIENT STATE INTERVENTION RATHER THAN TOO MUCH. CONSISTENT WITH TURN TO LEFT THESIS IS SUGGESTION EMBASSY HAS HEARD THAT MICHAEL FETY, A COTIER, MARXIST, AND PRESIDENT OF CNPD MIGHT BE NAMED PRIME MINISTER IN NEW GOVERNMENT.

3. RETREAT FROM PRESENT GOMR CAUTION ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND NEW AND BETTER INVESTMENT GUARANTEES ALSO COURSE GENERAL COULD CHOOSE WHICH IS CHANGE PRESUMABLY FAVORED BY MOST OF MALAGASY BOURGEOIS. TURNING TO RIGHT, CLOSER TO POLICIES ESPOUSED BY PSM AND MOST COTIERS -- BOTH GROUPS IN NEED OF APPEASEMENT IN NEW GOVERNMENT'S MAKEUP -- SHOULD NOT BE RULED OUT, BUT IT DOES BY IMPLICATION UNDERLINE FAILURE OF PAST GOMR POLICIES. IT IS NOT PERHAPS SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR TO GENERAL AND HIS ADVISORS AT THIS POINT, THAT DISLOCATIONS CAUSED BY STATE INTERVENTION ARE MAJOR FACTOR IN DOWNHILL DRIFT OF ECONOMY. GOMR POSITION HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY, "DISLOCATIONS ARE TO BE EXPECTED." MENDENHALL

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